



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

No. 109

Senate

The Senate met at 12 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, You rule the Earth, sea, and sky. As we deal with Hurricane Katrina's wake-up call and the death of our 16th Supreme Court Chief Justice, steady this great land. Make us grateful for the acts of generosity and altruism we have seen in this Nation and around the world.

Help us to remember Your sovereignty as You lead us away from the dead-end streets of pointing fingers to the productive paths of self-examination.

Like the canary in the mine, may these difficult days warn us of the dangers of ignoring extreme disparities in economic and social conditions. Forgive us when we cry pathology in order to justify our own indifference. Help us to build on this opportunity to work toward liberty and justice for all.

Use our Senators as agents of Your will. Give them wisdom to know what is right and the courage to do it. As we labor to strengthen freedom in other nations, open our eyes to the invisible people on life's margins in America. Hasten the day when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 5 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have a few housekeeping matters as we begin today.

I have talked to the Democratic leader and a number of our colleagues about changes we have made in our current schedule. As all Members are aware, on July 29 we filed cloture motions on two items that were scheduled for consideration today. In light of Hurricane Katrina, we will be shifting our focus this week, and I am prepared to make those changes by unanimous consent.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

First, I ask unanimous consent that the two cloture votes scheduled for 5:30 this afternoon be vitiated.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the order be modified so that at 2:15 today, the Senate begin a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time until 5:30 equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

I further ask consent that at 5:30 today, the Senate proceed to a vote on adoption of a resolution related to Hurricane Katrina.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, Senators should be aware that now the vote at 5:30 today will occur on the resolution expressing condolences to the victims of Katrina. I expect that a number of our colleagues will want to speak today on that resolution, and we have provided time to do so between 2:15 and 5:30 today.

In addition, following that vote, at 6 p.m. this evening there will be an all-Senators briefing related to our Gulf States. At that briefing will be a number of the Cabinet Secretaries who will be available. That briefing will be in S-407 in the Capitol.

As I have been stating, it is our intention to move very quickly, responsibly, and aggressively to Hurricane Katrina and her aftermath. This relief is underway. We need to make sure that we are maximally supportive and responsive in a timely fashion. I believe we demonstrated that last Thursday when we came in in an urgent session to approve \$10.5 billion which subsequently became law and was signed by the President.

Later today—again another manifestation of being able and appropriately responding to the changing events—we will clear a bill known as the Federal Judiciary Emergency Special Sessions Authority which will allow the affected U.S. courts to conduct business under these emergency conditions.

Tomorrow, we will pay tribute to the Chief Justice of the United States, William Rehnquist. I will say more later today on the schedule as it relates to the funeral and a Senate resolution relating to Chief Justice Rehnquist.

Finally, we will be turning to the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill later this week. That appropriations measure does fund a number of hurricane-related activities.

Earlier today, the Democratic leader and I, Chairman SPECTER, and Ranking Member LEAHY from the Judiciary Committee outlined the schedule with

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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